

DETAILED ACTION

Reasons for Allowance

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Applicant's arguments, see page 25 and 26, filed 11/13/09, with respect to claims 26-28, 35, 38-39, 41 and 43, have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of those claims has been withdrawn. Claims 1-25, 34, 36, 37, 40 and 42 are indicated allowable previously. Upon further review and consideration, examiner has determined that the currently pending claims are allowed for the reasons discussed below:

Referring to claims 1-11, the prior arts searched and of the record do not teach or disclose an image processing apparatus comprising: an original stage; a scanner establishing at least one scan region at the original stage, scanning the scan region established at the original stage, and outputting image data corresponding to the scan region; an image processor accepting input of image data and carrying out processing on the image data; and a controller controlling the scanner and the processor, and carrying out operations in accordance with any of one or more operational modes including a first operational mode; wherein the controller, when carrying out operations in accordance with the first operational mode, controls the scanner so as to cause the scanner to establish the scan region such that the scan region matches or is larger than a copy subject region at the original stage and such that the copy subject region is

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encompassed by the scan region; and controls the image processor so as to cause the image processor to accept input from the scanner of image data corresponding to the scan region and to output enlarged image data obtained by enlarging, so as to be larger than a dimension or dimensions of the print medium in either a horizontal direction or a vertical direction or in both a horizontal direction and a vertical direction, image data corresponding to the copy subject region that is encompassed by image data corresponding to the scan region.

Referring to claims 12 and 13, the prior arts searched and of the record do not teach or disclose an image processing method capable of being carried out by scanner circuitry that scans an original stage and image processing circuitry that processes scan image data from the scanner circuitry, the image processing method comprising: a step in which at least one scan region is established such that the scan region matches or is larger than a copy subject region at the original stage and such that the copy subject region is encompassed by the scan region; a step in which the scan region is scanned and image data corresponding to the scan region is obtained; a step in which image data corresponding to the copy subject region that is encompassed by the obtained image data corresponding to the scan region is enlarged so as to be larger than a dimension or dimensions of the print medium in either a horizontal direction or a vertical direction or in both a horizontal direction and a vertical direction; and a step in which the enlarged image data corresponding to the copy subject region is output.

Referring to claims 14 and 15, the prior arts searched and of the record do not teach or disclose a computer-readable medium encoded with a computer-executable program that controls scanner circuitry which scans an original stage and image processing circuitry which processes scan image data from the scanner circuitry, the computer program comprising: a first program segment for causing at least one scan region to be established such that the scan region matches or is larger than a copy subject region at the original stage and such that the copy subject region is encompassed by the scan region; a second program segment for controlling the scanner circuitry so as to cause the scan region to be scanned and image data corresponding to the scan region to be obtained; a third program segment for controlling the image processing circuitry so as to cause image data corresponding to the copy subject region that is encompassed by the obtained image data corresponding to the scan region to be enlarged so as to be larger than a dimension or dimensions of the print medium in either a horizontal direction or a vertical direction or in both a horizontal direction and a vertical direction; and a fourth program segment for controlling the image processing circuitry so as to cause the enlarged image data corresponding to the copy subject region to be output.

Referring to claims 16-25, the prior arts searched and of the record does not teach or disclose an image processing apparatus comprising: an original stage; a scanner establishing at least one scan region at the original stage, scanning the scan region established at the original stage, and outputting image data corresponding to the

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scan region; an image processor accepting input of image data, carrying out processing on the input image data, and outputting processed image data; and a controller controlling the scanner and the processor, and carrying out operations in accordance with any of one or more operational modes including a first operational mode; wherein the controller, when carrying out operations in accordance with the first operational mode, controls the scanner so as to cause the scanner to establish the scan region such that the scan region is smaller than a copy subject region at the original stage and such that the scan region is encompassed by the copy subject region; and controls the image processor so as to cause the image processor to accept input of image data corresponding to the scan region and output by the scanner, and to output enlarged image data obtained by enlarging, so as to be larger than a size of the print medium, image data corresponding to the scan region.

Referring to claims 26-27, the prior arts searched and of the record does not teach or disclose an image processing method capable of being carried out by scanner circuitry that scans an original stage and image processing circuitry that processes scan image data from the scanner circuitry, the image processing method comprising:

a step in which at least one scan region is established such that the scan region is smaller than a copy subject region at the original stage and such that the scan region is encompassed by the copy subject region; a step in which the scan region is scanned and image data corresponding to the scan region is obtained; a step in which the obtained image data corresponding to the scan region is enlarged so as to be larger

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than a dimension or dimensions of the print medium in either a horizontal direction or a vertical direction or in both a horizontal direction and a vertical direction; and a step in which the enlarged image data corresponding to the copy subject region is output.

Referring to claim 28, the prior arts searched and of the record do not teach or disclose a computer-readable medium encoded with a computer-executable program that controls scanner circuitry which scans an original stage and image processing circuitry which processes scan image data from the scanner circuitry, the computer program comprising: a first program segment for causing at least one scan region to be established such that the scan region is smaller than a copy subject region at the original stage and such that the scan region is encompassed by the copy subject region; a second program segment for controlling the scanner circuitry so as to cause the scan region to be scanned and image data corresponding to the scan region to be obtained; a third program segment for controlling the image processing circuitry so as to cause the obtained image data corresponding to the scan region to be enlarged so as to be larger than a dimension or dimensions of the print medium in either a horizontal direction or a vertical direction or in both a horizontal direction and a vertical direction; and a fourth program segment for controlling the image processing circuitry so as to cause the enlarged image data corresponding to the scan region to be output.

Referring to claim 34, the prior arts searched and of the record do not teach or disclose printer system comprising: a scanner scanning a scan region based on an

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original region and outputting image data of the scan region; an image processor receiving image data and generating print data based on the received image data; and a printer printing at a print medium based on the print data; wherein a copy target region included in the original region is set based on an indication by a user or the scanner; wherein the scanner outputs image data which is larger than the copy target region and encompasses the copy target region on the inside; and wherein the image processor generates the print data by enlarging the image data at a magnification adjusted so as to cause the image data of an outer portion, which is outside of the copy target region to be out of the print medium.

Referring to claim 35, the prior arts searched and of the record do not teach or disclose a printing method, comprising: scanning, by a scanning device, a scan region based on an original region; generating, by an image data generating device, image data which is larger than a copy target region and encompasses the copy target region on the inside, the copy target region which is included in the original region and is set based on an indication by a user or a predetermined setting; generating, by an image processing device, print data by enlarging the image data at a magnification adjusted so as to cause the image data of an outer portion, which is outside of the copy target region, to be out of the print medium; and printing, by a printing device, at the print medium based on the print data.

Referring to claims 36-37, 40 and 42, the prior arts searched and of the record does not teach or disclose a scanner scanning a scan region based on an original

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region and outputting image data an image processor processing image data outputted from the scanner; and a printer printing at a print medium based on data processed by the image processor; wherein the scanner outputs image data of a first region which is on the inside of an edge of the original region by a predetermined scanner margin; wherein the image processor generates a first print data by processing the image data of the first region outputted from the scanner, at least two sides among outer edge portions of the first print data being out of the print medium; and wherein the printer prints based on the first print data.

Referring to claim 38, 41 and 43 the prior arts searched and of the record does not teach or disclose a printing method, comprising scanning, by a scanning device, a scan region based on an original region; generating, by an image data generating device, image data of a first region, which comprises an inside region of the original region from which an edge portion is eliminated by a predetermined scanner margin; generating, by an image processing device, a first print data by processing the image data of the first region, an edge portion of the first print data is being out of a print medium; and printing, by a printing device, at the print medium based on the first print data.

Referring to claim 39, the prior arts searched and of the record do not teach or disclose a printing method comprising: scanning, by a scanning device, a scan region based on an original region; generating, by an image data generating device, image data of a first region which is on the inside of an edge of the original region by a

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predetermined margin; generating, by an image processing device, a first print data by processing the image data of the first region, at least two opposing sides among outer edge portions of the first print data area being out of a print medium; printing, by a printing device, at the print medium based on the first print data; setting, by the scanning device, a copy target region included in the original region, based on an indication by a user or a predetermined setting; generating, by the image data generating device, image data of a second region which is smaller than the copy target region; generating, by the image processing device, a second print data by processing the image data of the second region which is smaller than the copy target region, at least two opposing sides among outer edge portions of the second print data being out of the print medium; and printing, by the printing device, based on the second print data.

2. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to NEGUSSIE W. WORKU whose telephone number is (571)272-7472. The examiner can normally be reached on 8AM-5PM.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, coles Edward can be reached on 571-272-7402. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/NEGUSSIE W WORKU/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit